

03/31/00

**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR
1.53(b)

Attorney Docket No. P00,0514

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

Wolfgang Renz et al.

Express Mail Label No: # EL497037934US



03/31/00

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. Specification [Total Pages 10]
2. Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Pages 3]
3. Declaration and Power of Attorney [Total Pages 2]
 - a. Newly executed declaration (Original copy)
 - b. Copy from prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 14 completed)

[Note Box 4 Below]

i. DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting Inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
4. Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 3b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 3b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

5. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documentation)
Siemens Aktiengesellschaft
6. Letter under 37 CFR 1.41(c).
7. English Translation Document (if applicable)
8. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 — Copies of IDS Citations
9. Preliminary Amendment
10. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
11. Small Entity Statement(s) — Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
12. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) German Application No. 199 14 989.5 filed April 1, 1999
13. Other:

14. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: /

CLAIMS AS FILED					
	(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) BASIC FEE \$690.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	20	13			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3	1			
ANY MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS? (YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO)					
TOTAL FILING FEE ->					\$690.00

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this application, or credit any overpayment to ACCOUNT NO. 08-2290. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

A check in the amount of \$ 690.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

15. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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SIGNATURE: Stan Noll 4/28/98
491899:1190
U-11

DATE: March 31, 2000

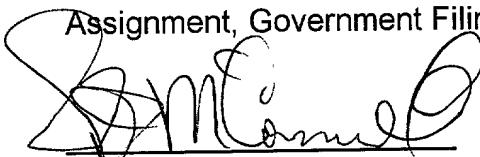
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"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number **EL 497037934US**

Date of Deposit: March 31, 2000

I hereby certify that the following is being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Proposed Patent Application for WOLFGANG RENZ and MARKUS VESTER entitled "MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANTENNA", consisting of specification, claims, 3 sheets of informal drawings, Certified Copy of German Application 19914989.5, Assignment, Government Filing Fee, Attorney Docket No. P00,0514



Signature of person
mailing application

Name of person mailing
application

S. McConnell
S. McConnell

SPECIFICATION

TITLE

“MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANTENNA”

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a magnetic resonance antenna for magnetic resonance systems with a vertical basic field, the magnetic resonance antenna being of the type having a number of antenna elements that extend substantially radially from an inner element to at least one outer element, relative to a center axis, the antenna elements being at least magnetically coupled with one another.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

A magnetic resonance antenna of the above type is known from United States Patent No 5,153,517. This magnetic resonance antenna has four antenna elements that are driven in pairs with 90° phase quadrature.

So-called birdcage resonators are known for magnetic resonance systems with an axial basic field. These have a number of antenna elements that are circularly arranged around a center axis and that extend parallel to the center axis. These antenna elements, at their ends, are connected to one another via ring-shaped connecting elements in an electrically conducting manner.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a magnetic resonance antenna for magnetic resonance systems with a vertical basic field, with which a homogeneous circularly polarized magnetic field can be generated in

a simple manner.

The above object is achieved in accordance with the principals of the present invention in a magnetic resonance antenna formed by a number of antenna elements which proceed substantially radially from an inner element beginning to at least one outer element and, relative to a center axis, the antenna elements being at least magnetically coupled with one another, and wherein the number of antenna elements is at least five.

The antenna elements are coupled with one another at least via their magnetic field. In addition, they can also be coupled with one another via connecting elements at the element beginnings and/or element ends. Such an electrically conducting connection is preferably effected via a connecting element that is fashioned in a ring-shaped manner. Alternatively, the element beginnings and/or element ends can be individually connected to a grounding plane instead of being connected among each other with connecting elements.

Capacitors can be arranged in all antenna elements and/or connecting elements in order to adapt the magnetic resonance antenna to the desired operating frequency.

Regardless of the type of coupling, what is important in both cases is that the antenna elements are coupled with one another such that the magnetic field, which is generated by them, is circularly polarized.

In the most simple case, the antenna elements can each have one element beginning and one element end. As warranted, however the antenna elements can be split toward the outside, i.e. they can have at least two element ends.

The geometry of the magnetic resonance antenna can be even. The construction of the magnetic resonance antenna is particularly simple in this case. When the element beginnings define an element beginning plane and the element ends a element end plane, and when the element beginning plane and the element end plane extend parallel to one another and are

offset to one another, a particularly homogenous magnetic field results in the area of the center axis. Preferably, the antenna elements are fashioned linear in this case.

The antenna elements each exhibit a line direction, whose extrapolation cuts the center axis in a common intersecting point. The magnetic field generated by means of the magnetic resonance antenna is more homogenous when the element beginning plane and the element end plane extend parallel to a grounding plate. It is particularly homogenous when the intersecting point is situated in the grounding plate.

When the number of antenna elements can be divided by four, the coupling-in and coupling-out of two currents that are phase-shifted by 90° is particularly simple.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a plane view of a first embodiment of a magnetic resonance antenna constructed in accordance with the principals of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a plane view of a second embodiment of a magnetic resonance antenna constructed in accordance with the principals of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a plane view of a third embodiment of a magnetic resonance antenna constructed in accordance with the principals of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a plane view of a fourth embodiment of a magnetic resonance antenna constructed in accordance with the principals of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a prospective view of a magnetic resonance antenna constructed in accordance with principals of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a side view of the fourth embodiment of the magnetic resonance antenna, shown in Figure 4.

Figure 7 is a side view of the first embodiment of the magnetic resonance antenna, shown in Figure 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 shows the basic shape of an inventive magnetic resonance antenna. It has at least five (eight according to Figure 1) antenna elements 1. The antenna elements 1 extend radially from an inner element bar beginning 3 to an outer element end with respect to a center axis 2. According to Figure 1, the element beginnings 3 are connected to one another in an electrically conducting manner via an inner connecting element 5, and the element ends 4 are connected to one another in an electrically conducting manner via an outer connecting element 6. According to Figure 1, both connecting elements 5, 6 are fashioned in a ring-shaped manner. Therefore, the antenna elements 1 not only are magnetically coupled with one another but also are electrically coupled. The magnetic resonance antenna exhibits a cyclic symmetry from antenna element 1 to antenna element 1.

The magnetic resonance antenna has two connections 7, which, offset by 90° , are arranged at the outer connecting element 6. At these two connections 7, two currents that are phase-shifted by 90° can be alternatively coupled or coupled out with a magnetic resonance frequency f. As a result, a circularly polarized magnetic field can be alternatively emitted or received with the magnetic resonance antenna according to Figure 1. The magnetic resonance frequency usually lies between 8 MHZ and 100 MHZ. The currents and magnetic fields that flow at a specific point in time are indicated in Figure 1 by means of the normal symbols.

According to Figure 1, capacitors 8 are arranged in the outer connecting element 6. Alternatively, the capacitors 8 could be arranged in the inner connecting element 5 or in the antenna elements 1.

Figures 2 through 5 show modifications of the basic fashioning according to Figure 1. Identical elements are thereby provided with identical reference numbers. The capacitors 8 contained in the antenna elements 1 and/or in the connecting elements 5, 6 are not shown in the Figures 2 through 5 for simplification.

According to Figures 2 and 3, the element ends 4 are connected to one another in an electrically conducting manner via the outer connecting element 6. In contrast thereto, the element beginnings 3 are directly connected to one another in an electrically conducting manner according to Figure 2 and, according to Figure 3, are grounded. Further, in the embodiment of Figure 2, the antenna elements 1 are split toward the outside, i.e. they respectively have two element ends 4. In the embodiment of Figure 4, the element beginnings 3 are connected to one another in an electrically conducting manner via the inner connecting element 5 and the element ends 4 are grounded.

In the embodiment according to Figure 5, the antenna elements 1 are only magnetically coupled with one another. According to Figure 5, the element beginnings 3 and the element ends 4 are grounded.

Figure 6 shows the embodiment of the magnetic resonance antenna according to Figure 4 in profile from the side. The magnetic resonance antenna is planarly constructed. It is also possible (as explained in the following in connection with Figure 7) that the element beginnings 3 define an element beginning plane 9 and that the element ends 4 define an element end plane 10, the element beginning plane 9 and the element end plane 10 extending parallel to another, and being offset from one another.

Figure 7 shows the basic fashioning of the magnetic resonance antenna according to Figure 1 from the side. According to Figure 7, the antenna element 1 exhibit a line direction. The extrapolation of the line direction intersects the center axis 2 in a common intersecting point 11. The intersecting point 11 is situated in a grounding plate 12, which extends

parallel to the element beginning plane 9 and to the element end plane 10. The slope of the antenna elements 1 relative to the grounding plate 12 should not exceed 45°. Otherwise, the slope can be selected as required.

The inventive magnetic resonance antenna exhibits high efficiency given the generation and the reception of a circularly polarized magnetic field.

The number of antenna elements 1 can be selected as required as long as it is equal to or exceeds five. It is particularly beneficial, however, when the number can be divided by four, namely 8, 12, 16 etc.. Then, the coupling-in and coupling-out of two currents, which are phase-shifted by 90°, is especially simple for generating or scanning a circularly polarized magnetic field.

The inventive magnetic resonance antenna can be utilized in magnetic resonance systems with a vertical basic field in order to generate or receive a high-frequency magnetic field that is transverse relative to the vertical basic field. Thereby, it is particularly advantageous that crossing (overlapping) antenna element do not occur in the basic design and thus will not come into contact with one another, so that special measures do not have to be undertaken to isolate the elements from one another.

Although modifications and changes may be suggested by those skilled in the art, it is the intention of the inventors to embody within the patent warranted hereon all changes and modifications as reasonably and properly come within the scope of their contribution to the art.

WE CLAIM AS OUR INVENTION:

1. A magnetic resonance antenna comprising:
a plurality of antenna elements, each antenna having an element beginning and an element end;
said antenna elements being disposed radially relative to a center axis so as to proceed outwardly from the respective element beginnings to the respective element ends;
said antenna elements being at least magnetically coupled with each other; and
said plurality being at least five.
2. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 1, wherein the respective element beginnings and the respective element ends are connected to ground.
3. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 1 wherein said antenna elements are electrically coupled to each other.
4. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 3 wherein the respective element beginnings are electrically connected to each other via a ring-shaped connecting element.
5. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 3 wherein the respective element ends are electrically connected to each other via a ring-shaped connecting element.
6. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 3 wherein the respective element beginnings are electrically connected to each other via a first ring-shaped connecting element and wherein the respective

element ends are electrically connected to each other via a second ring-shaped connecting element.

7. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said antenna elements has two branching element ends.

8. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 1 wherein the respective element beginnings define an element beginning plane and wherein the respective element ends defines an element end plane, and wherein said element beginning plane and said element end plane are parallel to and spaced from each other.

9. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 8 wherein the respective antenna elements are linear.

10. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 8 wherein the respective antenna elements define respective line directions, said line directions intersecting said center axis at a common point.

11. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a grounding plate disposed parallel to said element beginning plane and said element end plane, and said common point being disposed in said grounding plate.

12. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a grounding plate disposed parallel to said element beginning plane and said element end plane.

13. A magnetic resonance antenna as claimed in claim 1 wherein said plurality is divisible for four.

Abstract

A magnetic resonance antenna has at least five antenna elements, each of, which extends essentially radially from an inner element beginning to at least one outer element end with respect to a center axis. The antenna elements are at least magnetically coupled with one another.

Reference character list

1	antenna bars
2	center axis
3	bar beginnings
4	bar ends
5, 6	connecting elements
7	connections
8	capacitors
9, 10	planes
11	intersecting point
12	grounding plate
f, f0	frequencies

1/3

FIG 1

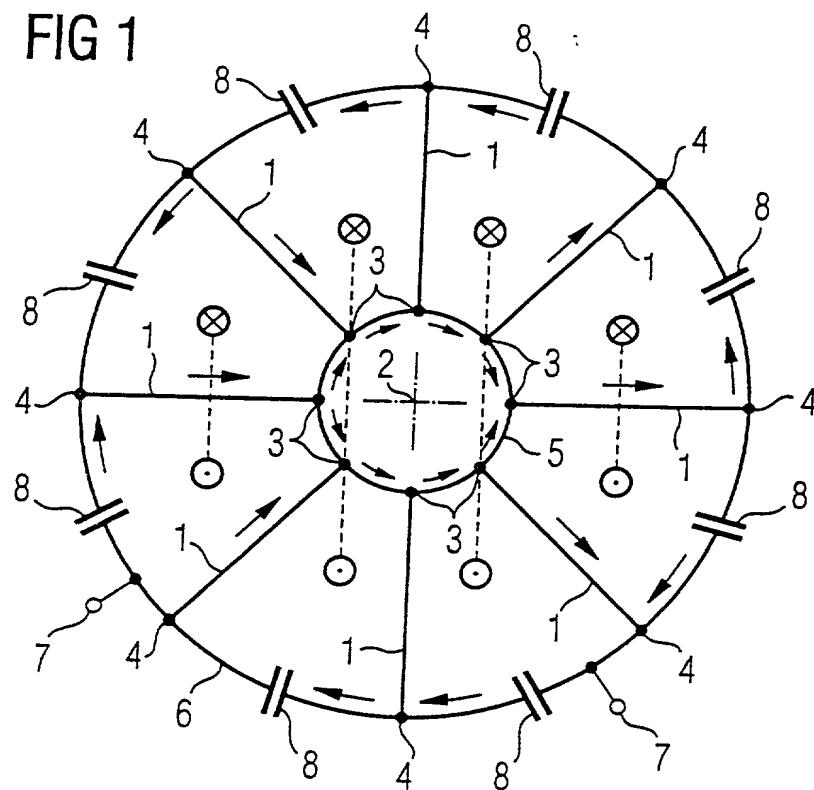
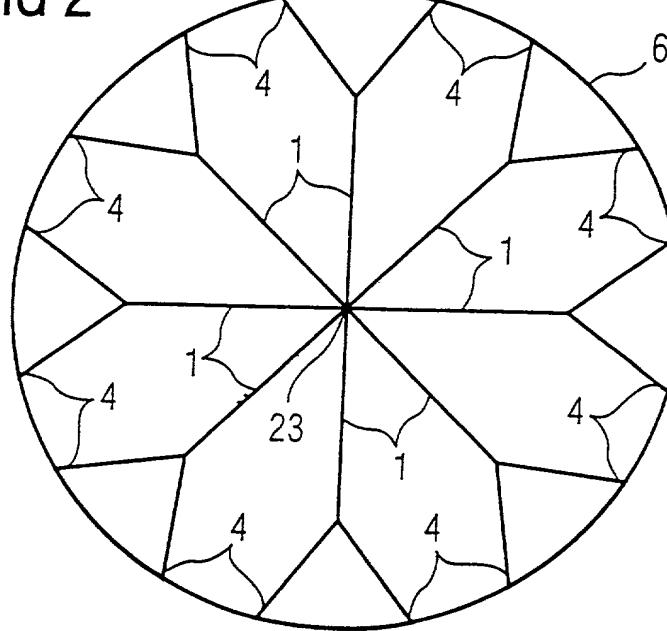


FIG 2



2/3

FIG 3

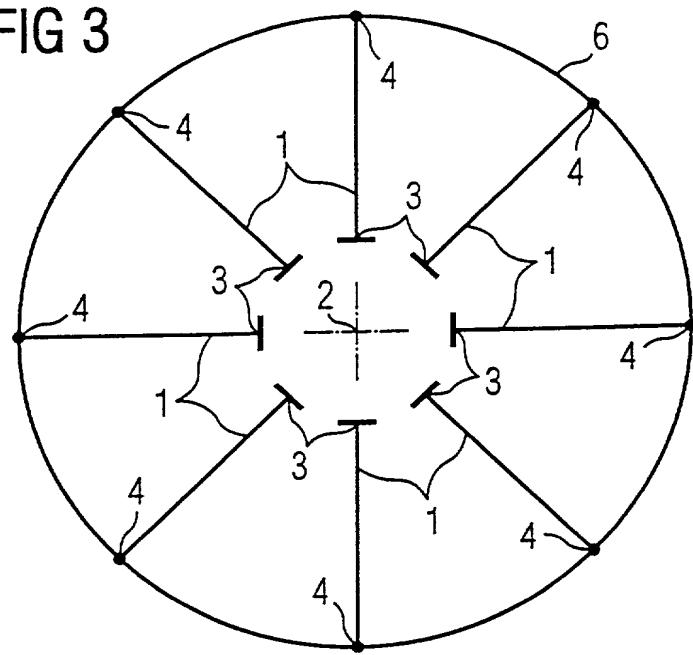
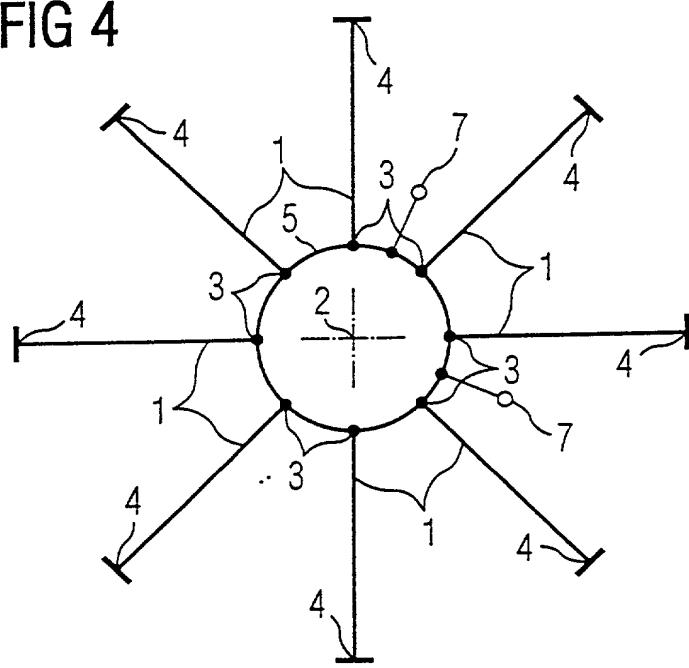


FIG 4



3/3

FIG 5

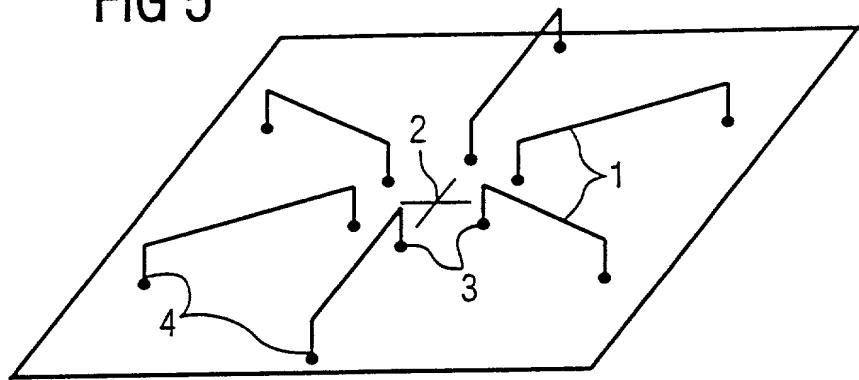


FIG 6

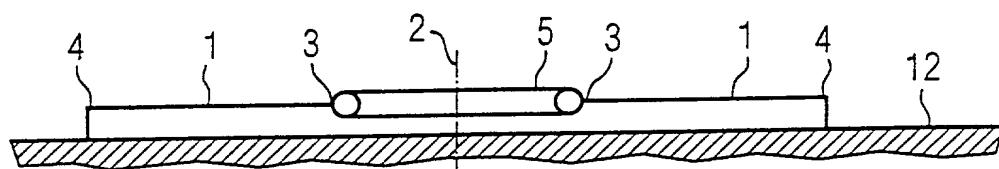
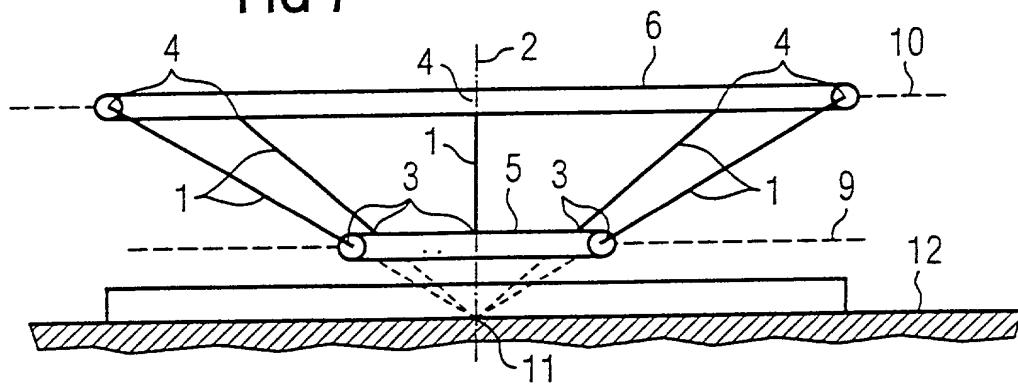


FIG 7



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANTENNA"

Case No. P00,0514, the specification of which

(check
one) X is attached hereto.
 — was filed on _____, as
 Application Serial No. _____
 and was amended on _____
 (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent Office all information which is known to me to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.¹

I do not know and do not believe this invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and I believe that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as identified below:

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below

Prior Foreign Application(s) Number	Country	Date
19914989.5	Fed. Rep. Germany	April 1, 1999

and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the above listed application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s) Number	Country	Date
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¹ (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A *prima facie* case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

If no priority is claimed, I have identified all foreign patent applications filed prior to this application:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number

Country

Date

And I hereby appoint Messrs. John D. Simpson (Registration No. 19,842), Dennis A. Gross (24,410), Robert M. Barrett, (30,142), Steven H. Noll (28,982), Kevin W. Guynn (29,927), Robert M. Ward (26,517), Brett A. Valiquet (27,841), Edward A. Lehman (22,312), David R. Metzger (32,919), Todd S. Parkhurst (26,494), James D. Hobart (24,149), Melvin A. Robinson (31,870), Joseph P. Reagen (35,332), Michael R. Hull (35,902), Michael S. Leonard (37,557), William E. Vaughan (39,056), and Lewis T. Steadman (17,074) all members of the firm of Hill & Simpson, A Professional Corporation

Telephone 312/876-0200 Ext. 3491

my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and direct that all correspondence be forwarded to:

J

Hill & Simpson
A Professional Corporation
85th Floor Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois 60606

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Inventor's signature

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(if any) _____

Inventor's signature

Date

Residence

Citizenship

Post Office Address

J